

REPORT OF THE AUDIT OFFICE

The Audit Office, having been appointed in terms of clause 16 of the second schedule of the Official Information Act 1982, has audited the financial statements of the Information Authority.

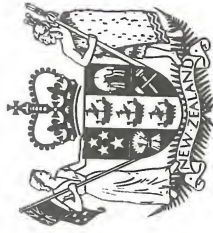
The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and practices.

In the opinion of the Audit Office, the financial statements appearing on pages 15 to 17 to fairly reflect the financial position as at 31 March 1987 and the financial results of operations for the year ended on that date.

B J Buddicom

for Controller and Auditor-General

17 July 1987



Report of the

INFORMATION AUTHORITY

ON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS
PURSUANT TO THE OFFICIAL
INFORMATION ACT

for the year ended 31 March 1988 and
concluding report to 30 June 1988

*Presented to the House of Representatives Pursuant to
section 44(1) of the Official Information Act 1982.*

INFORMATION AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 1988 AND CONCLUDING REPORT TO 30 JUNE 1988

INTRODUCTION

'Depend on it, Sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully'.

Samuel Johnson

With the disestablishment of the Information Authority on June 30, although, perhaps, by less precipitate means than that indicated in the foregoing quotation, it is opportune to take stock of what has been achieved as a longish phase of purpose-built activity in relation to official information comes to an end. This activity, which has run through almost a decade, takes in the work and reports of the Committee on Official Information, and, later, of the Information Authority. It is an appropriate point for a reflective summation.

Classic advice is to see an objective steadily and see it whole. It is a fair claim that this has been done. The basic principle of the OIA is that information should be made available unless good reason can be shown that this should not happen. This powerful generalisation has been buttressed in the amended Act, which enshrines the principle by giving it a dominant position in relation to almost all public enactments.

That this should have happened is more remarkable than it appears. Questions concerning the release or protection of official information are complex: they involve countervailing forces and require value judgements in circumstances which themselves may change, rendering precedents unreliable.

Consider the most common problem, the question of whether the familiar advantages which flow from making information public—accountability, good democratic understanding, responsibility and the rest—should overcome the advantages which are commonly seen to flow from confidentiality—personal privacy, commercial efficiency, protection of special interests such as international relations and the rest.

Although the need to evaluate the public interest in making known, against the public interest in keeping confidential, has shaped the OIA, it has also rendered it difficult to meet the criticism that, under the Act, information cannot be unequivocally defined as protected from public release. Many see such an absolute protection as an essential attribute to the possession and use of what they consider to be sensitive information. Such protection would depend upon definition and classification which must unambiguously describe and set boundaries on what is to be so protected.

OIA has in general set its face against classification as a means of providing a basis for confidentiality. Cabinet papers for example, are not protected because they are what they are. Rather, the Act recognises that the differing public interests it sets out call upon judgment, the

weighing of the pros and cons, to determine release or protection. In individual cases, the burden of such judgment and decision may devolve by due process from a state department to the Ombudsmen by appeal, and finally to the Minister for the exercise of his veto. The responsibility on the person involved—State Servant, Ombudsman or Minister—to take a broad view is paramount. It is not the type of information which determines its status, but the estimated effect of its release or withholding on the public interest.

This general opposition of interest in release to interest in confidentiality is perhaps most acutely focussed where personal information is concerned. In this case, the public interest in release may directly confront the integrity of the individual as expressed by the right to privacy. A highly relevant example is whether informed consent should be necessary to enable a blood test for Aids. The Authority has reported separately to Parliament on this whole question of personal privacy. The OIA itself has to embrace the apparent paradox that it is concerned simultaneously with open government and also the protection of personal privacy. As with the whole operation of the Act the answer lies in the exercise of judgement, with, however, an emphasis on personal rights of privacy.

As the Welfare State seeks to inform itself to meet democratic pressures for intervention from voters, tax payers and beneficiaries of one kind or another, inevitably the powers of government intrude more and more into the lives of citizens. Electronic collection and storage increasingly facilitate this process.

Another area of conflicting forces is likely to command further attention next year. A strong and self-evident case for protecting information lies in the field of commercially competitive activities. Where the state is so engaged it is surely entitled to the same sort of ground rules which characteristically apply to private business operations. So far so good. But what about the case where business objectives merge with social objectives which may, in their own right, transcend ordinary commercial aims. Recent arguments about the closure of Post Offices have made this a familiar problem without presenting clear answers. Social objectives must be met by way of public subventions and surely subsidies which come from taxpayers should be the subject of public examination. Equally, state commerce should be able to benefit from confidentiality as this is in the interest of tax payers in their role as involuntary shareholders. The development of SOE's and the links of such organisations to government by means of statements of corporate intent throw this information problem into sharp relief. A major review of this matter is required by the SOE Act to take place in 1989; this will certainly be required to address some basic principles.

MONITORING THE OPERATION OF THE ACT

With the reorganisation of the state sector and the creation of the State Owned Enterprises, with consequent changes to other departments of state, the Authority decided to discontinue its monitoring of the

of reviewable decisions. (A decision of this nature is one that the Ombudsmen can be asked to review). Recent figures would not be comparable to those of the previous four years. Instead, it was decided to ask departments to respond to a more detailed set of questions on the operation of the OIA during the last four years. These questions covered the benefits that departments perceived as a result of the OIA, as well as what they judged to be general difficulties that might require some reform of the legislation.

The replies confirmed the Authority's views that, in the main, the change of attitude required to operate a more open information regime had been achieved. There are, however, inherent difficulties in public information matters, and there continue to be problems in deciding the level of harm that might result from release of information and in the assessment, where applicable, of the public interests involved. We see a need for continuing training and education programmes, particularly for new staff, and perhaps, a greater recognition of the fundamental function Parliament has seen the OIA playing within the democratic process.

While there are exceptions, it appears that the OIA has had little impact on the work loads of most departments. This is, in part, because OIA requests have not been as great as expected, and because of the positive movements that have been in train during the last decade towards a more open and participative policy-making process. The advent of the OIA can be seen as part of this whole movement towards more open government, re-inforcing in legislation a trend, both in the government and the Courts, that was already under way at the time of its enactment. There has been little change for most departments in their relationship with the special interest groups they have dealings with, again because they were already pursuing a more open and consultative process.

Departments confirm that the largest number of additional requests have been for personal information, both from staff and from the public. This seems to be a general trend in access-to-information regimes; Australia and Canada have also found that personal information requests have been well in excess of general requests. There is no doubt that one of the most successful aspects from the individual member of the public's viewpoint has been improved access to personal information held by public sector agencies. It has also been a contributing factor to more open personnel policies and relationships between supervisors and staff.

Departments appear to have had no difficulties with implementation of the changes made to the OIA by the 1987 Amendment Act and it is encouraging to learn that the new provision for withholding information of a commercially sensitive nature has proved effective. We are concerned to find, however, that the new time limit provisions are being regarded in some instances as the minimum as well as the maximum times in which to answer a request.

PROTECTION OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION

The Authority is able to report that it has completed the review of "the protection accorded to official information by any Act with a view to seeing whether that protection is both reasonable and compatible with the purposes of (the OIA)". This has been a major task with over 200 provisions to be considered.

The review was undertaken in two stages; the first looked primarily at those provisions covering commercial information while the second considered personal information about individuals. In both cases, while recommending the repeal or amendment of the provisions, the Authority has also recommended reform of the OIA as necessary to reinforce the interests that were involved; that is, the protection of commercially confidential information and of personal privacy. The reforms represented in section 9(2)(b) and (ba) of the OIA, as inserted by the 1987 Amendment Act, clarified the protections available to private sector commercial information. The proposed amendments to s.9(2) and the addition of a new Part IVA recommended in the Authority's recent report to Parliament, "Collection and Use of Personal Information". If acted upon, should provide means for dealing with the difficult issues of privacy.

In undertaking the elimination of diverse and scattered secrecy provisions in public acts in favour of the umbrella protection of the OIA, the Authority has had to recognise difficulties which arise in special circumstances. This has been particularly the case with the provisions in the Statistics and the Inland Revenue Department Acts where the Authority accepted a need for a different approach.

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

In the case of the Statistics Department it commissioned a general study of the scope and development of the secrecy provisions within the Statistics Act. The aim of the review was to achieve, as far as was possible given the legislative and administrative constraints, an approach to access to information similar to that provided by the OIA. To a large extent this has been achieved. There are, however, some important exceptions concerning information acquired by the Department which require changes to be incorporated in the Statistics Act itself.

The Department of Statistics, uniquely, has a primary function of acquiring public information. This information is made generally available to delineate the state of the nation and to provide the raw material for policy determinations. The importance of this work is recognised in the power conferred on the department to compel the submission of information from individuals and corporate entities. Wherever possible, however, voluntary compliance in the provision of information is preferred to compulsion and such acquiescence is greatly assisted if an assurance of confidentiality is able to be offered to suppliers of information. One of the purposes of our review is to retain an appropriate assurance of confidentiality consistent with, but somewhat more powerful than, that which applies under the OIA.

Extensive discussions were held with senior officials of the Department who were concerned to see that the assurances of privacy and confidentiality given to suppliers of information were maintained, and the integrity of the statistics collection process was not impaired. We believe that the review just completed has provided for this.

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

The responsibilities of the Inland Revenue Department are such that relating its powers and duties to the requirements of the OIA posed special problems. In New Zealand confidentiality is seen as a necessary attribute of the tax assessment exercise and this would continue to require its own statutory base in the Inland Revenue Acts, independently of the OIA.

Nevertheless, the Authority was concerned to examine the procedures of the Inland Revenue Department in relation to the general approach of the OIA that information should be accessible unless there is good reason to withhold it. A general examination led to attention being directed to the reports of investigating officers in the Department whose enquiries form the basis for amended assessment, collection of tax and relevant penalty application. The content of these reports is often of great interest to the taxpayers concerned, and the possibility of whole or partial release of their material is relevant to the objective of openness of official information.

Detailed discussions were held with officials of the Inland Revenue Department who went to great pains to illustrate what is involved in assembling the information on which a report is based. The question on which consideration hinged was how far could the subject of the report be informed of its content without prejudicing the integrity of the assessment processes employed by the Department in general as well as in a particular case.

As part of their discussions, the Authority and officials of the Inland Revenue Department reached agreement on those parts of a report which should not be released in a typical investigation report.

The Authority agreed that material which reflects the officer's personal judgements and opinions, necessarily applied in this work, should remain confidential. When the material is factual, however, and does not disclose Department procedures or is not a premature disclosure of evidence, it can and should be made available. It is proposed therefore that that part of the documentation suitable for release to the party concerned will upon request by that party, be prepared as a separate report. The Commissioner has agreed that this separate report will now be released when requested and no amendment to the Official Information Act will be required.

The Authority is aware that many of those subject to investigative report are deeply interested to find out what led to a detailed enquiry being started in the first place. The Department has advised that the

reason for an investigation is to ascertain the correctness of an assessment and that in carrying out an investigation the Commissioner is fulfilling his obligations under the Revenue Acts. The Department is adamant that no further information on the reasons for a particular investigation can be made available without prejudicing its operations. After considerable discussion with the Department the Authority has reluctantly acknowledged this position.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

In its 1987 Annual Report the Authority discussed the recommendations it was proposing to govern the collection and use of personal information by public sector agencies. The discussion booklet the Authority published, which canvassed the issues, was widely distributed and elicited over 50 submissions. Although some specific and genuine problems were raised by some agencies there was general acceptance and support for the proposals. These matters and issues of general concern are discussed in the Authority's special report to Parliament "On the subject of Collection and Use of Personal Information" (E.27B). We believe that our proposals will be acceptable to those whose operations will be affected and will provide some confidence to the public that their privacy interests will not be overlooked.

The increased use of private sector firms for government work which requires them to have access to sensitive personal information reinforces the need for controls as proposed by the Authority. The sale of the Health Computing Services which processes, among other things, sensitive medical information is an example. Such information, when being processed by a contractor to the Department, remains official information, and therefore, the rules in the OIA (or LGOIMA) continue to apply when the information is held by the contractor. If, therefore, the proposed new rules on collection and use of personal information were to be incorporated within the OIA they would apply as much to the contractor as to the department. The use of debt collection agencies by the Department of Social Welfare and the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand is another other instance where the enactment of new rules would give an assurance to the public that information about them was being used only for the purposes for which it was collected.

EXTENSION OF THE OIA TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Submissions have been made on three Bills before Select Committees where the Authority believed that the OIA or the LGOIMA should apply to the information held by the body established by the particular legislation. These were the Ports Reform Bill, the Rural Banking and Finance Bill and the Dental Bill.

The major review the Authority undertook of the relationship of individual statutory boards and committees to the Official Information Act has been completed. (See Appendix A of this report.) This has required extensive consultations and regular updating as the Government's review of numerous progressed. Our 1987 Annual Report has advised that the

questions in relation to the functions and structure of organisations to be used in deciding whether or not they were already covered by the OIA, or whether they should be listed on one of the Schedules of those Acts. These criteria are also the basis of those included by the Legislative Advisory Committee in their publication "Legislative Change". The Authority did not expect that all the suggested criteria would necessarily be met by each body, but, where a substantial degree of relevance was revealed, that the body should be included. The criteria should also be considered with the overriding philosophy of the intent of the OIA (s.4 Purposes), to enable more effective participation in the processes of government and promote accountability of Ministers and officials.

The Authority has made submissions to the Occupational Licensing Review working party set up by the Minister of Justice to consider the legislation governing this area. Bodies determining entry into a profession or occupation, independent of Government, were initially excluded from coverage of the OIA. However, the Authority now sees value in such bodies being subject to the regime of the Act, where public interest functions are involved.

'OFFICIAL INFORMATION' BULLETIN

Although the operation of the OIA has become a normal part of the functions of departments, the Authority is persuaded that there is need for an ongoing programme bringing matters of interest to the attention of agencies under the Act. It has produced a bi-monthly 'Official Information' Bulletin which is circulated to all departments and organisations under the OIA, to members of Parliament and the news media, as well as interest groups within New Zealand and overseas. When the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (which is the OIA adapted for local government) came into operation, local authorities were included.

There has been a positive response to the Bulletin which has also created interest in the private sector, for example, law firms have requested copies. Contents include both access and privacy issues relating to central and local government agencies, explanations of, or background to, sections of the Act and notes on recent cases from the Office of the Ombudsman. There is also some material on overseas access and privacy regimes. The Authority appreciates being able to distribute the Bulletin in regular mailings made by the various local government associations, and by the Education Department to education authorities.

OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS

The Authority has provided a useful contact point for overseas agencies interested in knowing details of the New Zealand official information regime and has also received material which was distributed to interested parties in this country. In May last year the Chief Executive Officer

visited Australia where she had useful discussions with people concerned with the operation of freedom of information legislation in Melbourne and Canberra. We were pleased to be able to discuss OIA matters with Judge Alwyn Rowlands, President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal which hears access to information appeals in Victoria. The Authority believes this exchange of information and experiences to be valuable to the understanding and development of information policies.

AN ADVISORY AND AUDIT FUNCTION

It is not enough to see in place legislation establishing an information regime. Questions constantly arise about operations and applications by those responsible. An active advisory and audit function is necessary to maintain and assist in sustaining good and consistent practices. This is not the function of the Ombudsmen. It is, however, a responsibility which requires to be met in the vacuum created by the cessation of the work of the Authority.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Authority appreciates the co-operation and support it has been given in its tasks by bodies covered by the OIA, particularly by government departments. Our activities caused them additional work which was willingly undertaken.

We are grateful to our staff and to the many individuals we have consulted over the years. In particular, Sir Kenneth Keith, Mr Grant Liddell, Mr Ian Miller and Mr John Gray have rendered us valuable service.

Small organisations such as the Authority are particularly dependant on the calibre of the Executive Officer on whom the day to day responsibility of the office devolves. The Authority, through its existence, has been particularly fortunate to have had Miss Ailsa Salt in this position, which she has undertaken with exceptional energy and commitment. While her qualities have been recognised by her appointment to the Deputy Clerkship of the House of Representatives, this deprives government of her experience in dealing with information matters.

Legislation may have brought the Information Authority to a close but questions concerning information cannot be as readily dismissed. In the light of changing events, some of which cannot be foreseen, problems will arise and answers will be needed.

APPENDIX A

STATUTORY AND ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Schedule 1 lists those bodies which are covered by the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), through their listing on the schedules of the OIA and Ombudsmen Act 1975.

Schedule 2 lists the bodies covered by the OIA by definition of section 2(2) of the Act. Those with Tribunal status are included for their non-judicial functions (administrative), while their judicial functions are protected by section 2(6).

Schedule 3 lists those bodies which are not covered by section 2(2) but which should come under the OIA. These are, therefore, recommended for listing on the OIA First Schedule.

The Authority is aware that some of the bodies listed in Schedules 1 and 2 are in the process of winding up, or are under review for restructuring or quangocide. The intention of these schedules is to present, as accurately as possible, the status of each body at the time of tabling this Report.

Each body is listed under their appropriate Ministerial portfolio. Government Departments, State-Owned Enterprises and Local Authorities as listed in the First Schedule of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), have not been included but are covered by the OIA or its principles as expressed in LGOIMA.

Schedule 1

ORGANISATIONS COVERED BY THE OIA AS LISTED ON THE SCHEDULES OF THE OIA AND OMBUDSMEN ACT

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES	New Zealand Wool Testing Authority
Agricultural Pests Destruction Council	Noxious Plants Council
Animal Remedies Board	Pesticides Board
Berryfruit Marketing Licensing Authority	Phosphate Commission of New Zealand
Fisheries Authority	Raspberry Marketing Council
Fruit Distributors Ltd	Raspberry Marketing Export Authority
Game Industry Board	Veterinary Services Council
Hop Marketing Committee	MINISTER OF ARTS AND CULTURE
Market Development Committee (Lamb)	New Zealand Film Commission
Meat Export Prices Committee	Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand
National Hydatids Council	MINISTER OF BROADCASTING
New Zealand Apple and Pear Marketing Board	Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand
New Zealand Dairy Board	MINISTER OF CIVIL DEFENCE
New Zealand Fishing Industry Board	National Civil Defence Committee
New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority	MINISTER OF CONSERVATION
New Zealand Kiwifruit Authority	Bay of Islands Maritime/Historic Park Board
New Zealand Meat Producers Board	Canterbury Provincial Buildings Board
New Zealand Pork Industry Board	University of the Pacific
New Zealand Potato Board	University of Waikato
New Zealand Poultry Board	University of Waikato

Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve Board	MINISTER OF FINANCE
Lake Rototiti Scenic Board	Government Stores Board
Marine Reserve Management Committees	Government Superannuation Board
Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park	Local Authorities Loans Board
National Parks and Reserves Authority	National Provident Fund Board
National Parks and Reserves Boards	Overseas Investment Commission
Nature Conservation Council	Reserve Bank of New Zealand
New Zealand Historic Places Trust	MINISTER OF HEALTH
New Zealand Walkway Commission	Area Health Boards
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust	Children's Health Camps Board
Reserves Board	Clean Air Council
State Forest Park Advisory Committees (19)	Hospital Boards
Waitangi National Trust Board	Maternal Deaths Assessment Committee
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS	Medical Research Council of New Zealand
Consumer Council	Medicines Classification Committee
MINISTER OF DEFENCE	Medicines Review Committee
Armed Forces Canteen Council	New Zealand Council for Post-Graduate Medical Education
MINISTER OF DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL	Radiation Protection Advisory Council
Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control	MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER OF EDUCATION	Board of Trustees of the National Art Gallery, National Museum, & National War Memorial
Authority for Advanced Vocational Awards	Management Council & Special Councils (National Art Gallery, Museum, & War Memorial Act 1972)
Community College Governing Bodies	New Zealand Fire Service Commission
Education Boards (10)	New Zealand Lotteries Commission
Lincoln College	New Zealand Lottery Board
Maori Education Foundation	New Zealand Racing Authority
Massey University	Patriotic and Canteen Funds Board
National Council of Adult Education	Provincial Patriotic Councils (14)
New Zealand Technical Correspondence Institute Council	Totalisator Agency Board
New Zealand Trades Certification Board	Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Board
New Zealand Council for Educational Research	MINISTER OF JUSTICE
Pacific Islands Polynesian Education Foundation	Abortion Supervisory Committee
Secondary School Governing Bodies	Alcoholic Liquor Advisory Council
Teacher Registration Board	Human Rights Commission
Teachers College Governing Bodies	Law Commission
Technical Institutes Governing Bodies	Legal Aid Board
Universities of Auckland, Canterbury, Otago, and Waikato	Representation Commission
Universities Entrance Board	Securities Commission
University Grants Committee	Victims Task Force
Victoria University of Wellington	MINISTER OF LABOUR
MINISTER OF ENERGY	Accident Compensation Corporation
Coal Mining Industries Welfare Council	Higher Salaries Commission
Rural Electrical Reticulation Council	Trade Union Education Authority
Waikato Carbonisation Limited	Vocational Training Council
	Waterfront Industry Commission

MINISTER OF MAORI AFFAIRS
Board of Maori Affairs
Maori Purposes Fund Board
Te Kōhiriāna Mo Te Reo Maori (Maori Language Commission)
MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE AND MARKETING
New Zealand Export-Import Corporation
New Zealand Market Development Board

PARLIAMENT
Abortion Supervisory Committee
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE
Public Trust Office Investment Board

MINISTER OF RECREATION AND SPORT
The Hillary Commission for Recreation and Sport

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
National Research Advisory Council
Testing Laboratory Registration Council of New Zealand

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF STATE INSURANCE
Earthquake and War Damage Commission

State Insurance Investment Board
MINISTER OF SURVEY AND LAND INFORMATION
New Zealand Geographic Board
Survey Board of New Zealand
MINISTER OF TOURISM
New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute

MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Commerce Commission
DFC New Zealand Ltd
New Zealand Industrial Design Council
New Zealand Milk Authority
New Zealand Planning Council
Standards Council
Temporary Safeguard Authorities

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
National Roads Board
Urban Transport Council

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF WAR PENSIONS
Rehabilitation Board
War Pensions Board
War Pensions Medical Research Trust Board

Schedule 2

ORGANISATIONS COVERED BY SECTION 2(2) OF THE OIA

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
Animal Ethical Committees
Animal Health Advisory Committee
Aparies Advisory Committee
Dairy Factory Managers Registration Board
Fishery Management Advisory Committees (5)
Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Council
Livestock Improvement Council
Maximum Security Quarantine Advisory Committee
National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee
New Zealand Sheepplan Council
Nursery Stock Research Extension Advisory Committee
Plant Varieties Rights (Roses) Advisory Committee
Quarantine Research Committee
Broadcasting Tribunal

Quota Appeal Authority
Raspberry Marketing Committees (6)
Technical Advisory Committee (Animal Pests)
Vegetable Research Extension Advisory Committee
Veterinary Surgeons Board
MINISTER OF ARTS AND CULTURE
Central Regional Arts Council
Council for Maori and South Pacific Arts
Cultural Conservation Advisory Council
New Zealand Authors' Fund Advisory Committee
New Zealand Literary Fund Advisory Committee
Northern Regional Arts Council
Southern Regional Arts Council
MINISTER OF BROADCASTING
Broadcasting Complaints Committee
Broadcasting Tribunal

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
Air Services Licensing Authority
Aviation Safety Board
National Aviation Advisory Committee
National Civil Aviation Security Committee
New Zealand National Search and Rescue Committee

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION
Central North Island Wildlife Conservancy Council
Fauna Protection Advisory Council
Guardians of Lake Wanaka
Guardians of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau

Guardians of The Lakes
National Park Centennial Commission
National Recreational Hunting Advisory Committee

Outlying Island Reserves Committee
Protected Areas Scientific Advisory Committee
Southern Lakes Conservancy Council
Waipoua Forest Sanctuary Advisory Committee
Wild Animal Recovery Service Appeal Authority

MINISTER OF CIVIL DEFENCE
Board of Review
Chiefs of Staff Committee
Defence Executive Committee
New Zealand Defence Council

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
Advisory Committee on Appeals by Private Overseas Students
Advisory Committee on Teaching of Maori Language
Board of Studies
Central Advisory Committee
Education Authorities Appeal Authority
Education Authorities Employment Grading Committee
Integration Standing Committee
Kindergarten Teachers Appeal Board
Music Teachers Registration Board
National Advisory Committee on Maori Education
New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Otago Business Development Centre
Otagi and Porirua Trusts Board
Papawai and Kaikōkiri Trusts Board
Primary Teachers Appointment Appeal Board
New Zealand National Commission for External Aid and Development
Australia-New Zealand Foundation (NZ Board)
New Zealand/Japan Foundation

Protected Teachers Appeal Board
Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind
School Committees (approximately 2578)
Standing Committee of Relationships in Tertiary Education
Teacher Assessment and Classification Appeal Board
Teachers Court of Appeal
Teachers Disciplinary Board
Tertiary Assistance Grants Appeal Authority
Timber Industry Training Centre Advisory Centre
UNESCO National Commission

MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT
Dental Technicians Training Council
Regional Employment and Access Committees
Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship Reform
Advisory Panel on Training/Employment Programmes
Building Industry Technician Training Council
National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women
New Zealand Apprenticeship Committees (35)
New Zealand Painters and Decorators Prize Fund Board
New Zealand Signwriting Craftsman Apprenticeship Prize Fund

MINISTER OF ENERGY
Board of Examiners (Mining Act 1971 and Quarries/Tunnels Act 1982)
Board of Examiners (Coal Mines Act 1979)
Electric Lineman Training Committee
Electrical Registration Board
Electrical Wiring Regulations Committee
Energy and Minerals Advisory Committee
MINISTER OF FINANCE
National Provident Fund
Board—Investment Committee
Overtime and Shift Work Recognition Authority

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Advisory Committee on External Aid and Development
Australia-New Zealand Foundation (NZ Board)
New Zealand/Japan Foundation

MINISTER OF FORESTRY

Forest Disease Control Advisory Committee

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Government Printing Office Advisory Board

MINISTER OF HEALTH

Advisory Committee on Hospital Board Funding

Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health

Advisory Committee on the Medical Workforce

Aids Advisory Committee

Ambulance Transport Advisory Board (and Regional Committees)

Anaesthetic Mortality Assessment Committee

Anaesthetic Technicians Training Committee

Blood Transfusion Service Management Committee

Cardiac Surgery Management Committee

Chiropractic Board

Civil Defence Medical Planning Committee

Committee on Drainage and Sanitary Plumbing

Communicable Disease Control Advisory Committee

Consultant Advisors in Pathology Committee

Dental Benefits Central Advisory Committee

Dental Technicians Board

Diagnostic Imaging Services Advisory Committee

Dietitians Board

Drugs Advisory Committee

Food Standards Committee

Health Services Appeal Board

International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes Monitoring Committee

Laboratory Services Advisory Committee

Laboratory Services Fees Negotiating Committee

Maternity Benefits Negotiating Committee

Medical Laboratory Technologists' Board

Medical Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee

Medical Radiation Technologists Board

Medical Services Advisory Committee

Medicine Assessment Advisory Committee

Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee

National Advisory Committee on Cancer Treatment Service

Nosocomial Infections Advisory Committee

Nursing Workforce Planning Committee

Occupational Health Technical Advisory Committee

Occupational Therapy Board

Opticians Board

Organ-imaging Review Committee

Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee

Pharmaceutical Benefits Negotiating Committee

Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee

Pharmacy Board of Appeal

Physiotherapy Board

Physiotherapy Services Advisory Committee

Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board

Podiatrists Board

Psychologists Board

Radiological Services Advisory Committee

Resident Medical Officers Establishment Committee

Restricted Drugs Committee

Supervising Committees, The Bridge (Salvation Army)

Supervisory Committee, Rotorua Island Inebriates Home

Technical Standing Committee on Renal Dialysis/Transplantation

Toxic Substances Board

Zoonosis Committee

MINISTER OF HOUSING

Hotel Association Appeal Tribunal

Hotel Association New Zealand

Disciplinary Committee

Hotel Investment Account Advisory Committee

Housing Allocation Committees

Tenancy Mediators

Tenancy Tribunals

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Anzac Fellowship Selection Committee

Architects Education and Registration Board

Architects Investigation Committee

Building Industry Commission

Captain James Cook Fellowship

Cultural Conservation Advisory Council

Cultural Facilities Advisory Committee

Film Censorship Board of Review

General Purposes Distribution Committee

Medical Research Distribution Committee

New Zealand Mountain Safety Council

New Zealand Water Safety Council

Scientific Research Distribution Committee

Video Recording Authority

Video Recording Board of Review

Welfare of the Aged Distribution Committee

Welfare Purposes Distribution Committee

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Accident Compensation Appeal Authority

Administrative Division of the High Court—Land Valuation Work

Administrative Division of the High Court—Clean Air

Co-operative Dairy Companies Tribunal

Copyright Tribunal

Criminal Justice Advisory Councils

Deportation Review Tribunal

District Court Rules Committee

District Legal Aid Committees

District Prisons Boards

Equal Opportunities Tribunal

Fire Services Appeal Board

High Court Rules Committee

Indecent Publications Tribunal

Industrial Property Advisory Committee

Land Valuation Tribunals (19)

Legal Aid Appeal Authority

Legislation Advisory Committee

Licensing Control Commission

Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board

Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal

New Zealand Law Practitioners

Disciplinary Committee, Lay Members

Parole Board

Periodic Detention Advisory Committees

Planning Tribunal

Registrar of Private Investigators/Security Guards

Small Claims Tribunals

Taxation Review Authorities

Tenancy Tribunal

MINISTER OF LABOUR

Advisory Council for Occupational Safety and Health

Low Pay Working Party

Machine Guarding Committees (Printing and Tanning)

Shop Trading Hours Commission

Standing Advisory Committee of the Transport of Hazardous Substances

MINISTER OF LANDS

Hunter Soldiers Assistance Trust Board

MINISTER OF MAORI AFFAIRS

Maori Land Advisory Committees (10)

Maori Soldiers Trust Central Committee

Waitangi Tribunal

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF REHABILITATION

Artificial Limb Board

MINISTER OF STATE SERVICES

Classification and Grading Committee

Public Service Appeal Board

Special Public Service Appeal Board

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE AND MARKETING

Export Guarantee Advisory Committee

MINISTER OF PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS

Minister of Pacific Island Affairs' Advisory Council

Pacific Island Affairs Unit

MINISTER OF POLICE

Committee of Inquiry

Medical Retirement Appeal Board

Police Appeal Board

Police Promotion Appeal Board

Police Promotion Board

Police Tribunal

POSTMASTER-GENERAL

Post Office Sick Benefit Fund

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

Railways Corporation Grading Committee

Railways Corporation Appeal Board

MINISTER OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional Development Councils (15)

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Advisory Committee on Novel Genetic Techniques

Climate Laboratory Allocation Committee

Crop Research Division Consultative Committee

Cultivar Advisory Committee

Division of Information Technology Advisory Committee

Ecology Division Consultative Committee

Fruit Research Advisory Committee

Hop Research Committee

Nursery Research Advisory Committee

New Zealand Committee Culture Collections Micro-organisms

Potato Research Advisory Committee
 Ross Dependency Research Committee
 Science and Technology Advisory Committee
 Soil and Plant Water Research Discussion Group
 Tobacco Research Advisory Committee
 Viticultural and Oenological Research Advisory Committee
 Wheat Research Committee

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE
 Advisory Council for Community Welfare of Disabled Persons
 Advisory Committee on Solvent Abuse
 Area Welfare Executive Committees
 Child Protection Teams
 Childrens Boards
 District Executive Committees
 District Review Committees
 Family Violence Prevention Co-ordinating Committee
 Home Budgeting Advisory Committee
 Independent Review Panels
 Institution Management Committees
 Medical Appeal Board
 National Advisory Committee on the Prevention of Child Abuse
 New Zealand Council for Education and Training in Social Services
 Rehabilitation League (Inc) (Board of Management and District Committees)
 Social Sciences Research Fund Committee
 Social Security Appeal Authority
 Visiting Committees

MINISTER OF SURVEY AND LAND INFORMATION
 Land Information New Zealand Board of Management
 Land Information New Zealand Consultative Committee

MINISTER OF TOURISM
 New Zealand Tourism Council

Wairakei Tourist Park District Committee
 MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
 Clerk of Works Registration Board
 Engineering Associates Registration Board
 Engineers Registration Board
 New Zealand Co-ord. Science/Tech Co-op Agreement (NZ/FR Germany STC)
 Quantity Surveyors' Registration Board
 Sintesd Co-ordinator

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
 Deputy Charges Appeal Authority
 Deputy Licensing Appeal Authority
 Marine Council
 Marine Advisory Committees
 Maritime Advisory Committees
 Maritime Appeal Authority
 New Zealand Air Facilitation Committee
 New Zealand Sea Facilitation Committee
 Oil Pollution Advisory Committee
 Road Traffic Safety Research Council
 Safe Driving Award Committee
 Small Boat Safety Committee
 Transport Charges Appeal Authority
 Transport Licensing Appeal Authority
 Transport Licensing Authority

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF VALUATION DEPARTMENT
 Valuers' Registration Board

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF WAR PENSIONS
 Blinded Servicemen's Trust Board
 National Rehabilitation Council
 War Pensions Appeal Boards

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
 Regional Youth Councils
 Youth Advisory Committee
 Youth Services Distribution Committee

Schedule 3

ORGANISATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR LISTING ON THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE OIA

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
 Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre (Wairapa)
 Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (Inc)

Industrial Training Boards

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 Joint Council for Local Authorities
 Local Government Commission

MINISTER OF PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS
 Pacific Island Employment Development Trust

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
 Carter Observatory Board
 New Zealand Agricultural Engineering Institute
 New Zealand Dairy Research Institute

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE
 Social Welfare Commission

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
 Ngairimu VC/28(Maori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board
 Trustees of the National Library

MINISTER OF HEALTH
 Dental Council
 Medical Council of New Zealand
 Nursing Council of New Zealand

MINISTER OF LABOUR
 Arbitration Commission

APPENDIX B**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES
GENERAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Accrual accounts are used to match expenses and revenues. The measurement base adopted is that of historical cost.

The Information Authority is established under part IV and schedule II of the Official Information Act 1982 for the purpose of administering that Act.

Under section 53 of the Act the Authority will cease to exist on 30 June 1988 when all assets and liabilities will pass to the Crown.

PARTICULAR ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Debtors**

Debtors are stated at net realisable value.

Depreciation

Depreciation has been calculated on a straight line basis and charged so as to write off assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful lives of assets are as follows:

Furniture and Fittings	10 years
Office Equipment	10 years
Statutes	not depreciated

Assets will be transferred, at residual values, to the Crown when the Information Authority ceases to exist on 30 June 1988.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

INFORMATION AUTHORITY**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 1988**

	Note	1987/88	1986/87
		\$	\$
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	..	72,796	61,746
Members Fees and Allowances	..	53,925	40,899
Materials Supplies Services	..	13,468	16,733
Consultants	..	1,200	-
Audit Fees	..	1,200	1,553
Depreciation	..	2,721	2,732
Loss of Sale of Asset	..	398	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	..	145,708	123,663
FUNDED FROM			
Vote SSC	..	141,981	125,082
Less transfer to capital	..	152	4,151
NET OPERATING REVENUE	..	141,829	120,931
DEPRECIATION NOT FUNDED—	2,721		
BOOK VALUE OF ASSET WRITTEN OFF—	1,158	3,879	2,732

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 1988

	Note	1987/88	1986/87
		\$	\$
DEBTORS	..	963	500
FUNDING DUE FROM VOTE SSC	..	3,742	11,186
FIXED ASSETS (Book Value)	..	17,363	21,090
		22,068	32,776
CREDITORS	..	4,705	11,686
Capital Funding	..	28,323	30,185
Less Accumulated Depreciation not funded	..	10,960	9,095
NET CAPITAL FUNDING	..	17,363	21,090
		22,068	32,776

The following notes and accounting policies form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these accounts.

Sir Alan Danks KBE
Chairman

Ailsa J Salt
Chief Executive Officer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 FUNDING FROM VOTE SSC

Cash funded from SSC Vote
Add Funding due for creditors
less Funding from debtors

	1987/88 \$	1986/87 \$
..	..	113,896
..	4,705	11,686
..	963	500
	<u>141,981</u>	<u>125,082</u>

2 FIXED ASSETS

Furniture and Fittings
less Accumulated Depreciation
Office Equipment
less Accumulated Depreciation
Statutes

..	..	6,235
..	2,099	2,419
..	21,850	21,850
..	8,861	6,676
..	<u>2,100</u>	<u>15,174</u>
..	<u>17,363</u>	<u>21,090</u>

3 CREDITORS

Salaries
Materials Supplies Services
Audit Fees
Members fees and allowances
Capital

..	282	1,894
..	1,247	5,046
..	1,250	964
..	1,926	3,614
..	-	168
	<u>4,705</u>	<u>11,686</u>

4 DEBTORS

Materials Supplies Services
Audits Fees

..	963	-
..	-	500

5 CAPITAL FUNDING

Opening Balance
Add Current Years Funding
Less Cost of Assets Sold

..	30,185	26,034
..	152	4,151
..	(2,014)	-
..	<u>28,323</u>	<u>30,185</u>

6 ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION NOT FUNDED

Opening Balance
Add current years depreciation
Less Disposal of Assets (Accumulated Depreciation)
Closing Balance

..	9,095	6,363
..	2,721	2,732
..	(856)	-
..	<u>10,960</u>	<u>9,095</u>

7 EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX

The Authority is exempt from income tax under clause 18 of schedule II of the Official Information Act.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT OFFICE

The Audit Office, having been appointed in terms of clause 16 of the second schedule of the Official Information Act 1982, has audited the financial statements of the Information Authority.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and practices.

In the opinion of the Audit Office, the financial statements appearing on pages 18 to 20 fairly reflect the financial position as at 31 March 1988 and the financial results of operations for the year ended on that date.

A. J. Millican
for Controller and Auditor-General

1 August 1988